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29 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations

VIA : Chief, FI

SUBJECT : Latvian Exfiltration Operation

1. Although it is recalled that at the 23 June DD/P Staff Meeting we were advised that all overflights will be suspended before and during the "Summit" Meeting, several recent developments in the Latvian exfiltration operation underscore the urgency of an early decision on this matter. It is therefore suggested that the case be reviewed in the light of these recent developments in the near future so that, if future circumstances permit, we may obtain the Director's approval and initiate appropriate action at the earliest possible moment.

2. In order that you may be provided with the necessary background on this case, the following brief synopsis of facts is furnished for your information:

a. [] is a Latvian who was recruited by this Agency in Sweden in 1951. He was brought to Germany for approximately one year of training and was dispatched by air in August 1952 to the Latvian SSR. As regards the other two agents with whom [] was dispatched, one missed the LZ and failed to effect a rendezvous. The first message from him indicated he had been captured. The other agent maintained contact with [] according to plan; however, the two were ambushed by troops on the morning subsequent to dispatch and during the ensuing skirmish, []'s companion was killed. [] managed to escape and was able to reach one of his support points in Riga safely. In the process, however, he was forced to abandon a good deal of operational equipment and almost all of his operational currency. In spite of such an inauspicious beginning and although he was forced to operate under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions, [] continued to carry out his assignment and did in fact complete it successfully. In the course of his activities he recruited and trained two internal resident agents, developed two cut-outs for receipt of communications, and arranged for two separate safehouse facilities. Although his tour of duty was scheduled to be completed in August 1954, it was decided that it would be wiser to withdraw him in advance of that date inasmuch as his mission had

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐

(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒

(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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9. It is requested therefore that in view of the short time remaining, immediate steps be taken to secure final approval for this operation. In the event approval for an air exfiltration is forthcoming, it is our additional intention to take immediate steps to procure a Hydrofoil and put it into operational readiness as a means of developing a maritime capability for exfiltration, in the event the air exfiltration does not materialize for some reason.

10. Although the proposed action is in the nature of a calculated risk, careful consideration has been given to the balance of possible gains versus losses (see annex 1), and it is felt that the probable gain would considerably outweigh the possible loss.

Chief, SR Division

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